

QUERCUS MACROCARPABUR OAK

Bur Oak is a small to large tree, generally less than 10 m tall in its natural Montana habitat. The bark is deeply furrowed and twigs are stout. The alternate, oblong-elliptic leaves are 10-20 cm in length and are deeply to shallowly lobed, with the terminal lobe being the largest. Leaves are dark green and shiny above but silvery below with fine, star-shaped hairs. Male flowers of 5-10 stamens are borne in long, loose, pendulous inflorescences from the leaf axils. 1 to several female flowers occur in the axils of new leaves. The acorn is up to 2-4 cm long, ellipsoidal, and the bottom half or more is enclosed by a roughened, fringe-margined cup. Flowering in spring; acorns mature in one year.

This is Montana's only native oak.